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A new record of the Persian Brook Salamander, *Paradactylodon persicus* (Eiselt & Steiner, 1970) (Amphibia: Caudata: Hynobiidae) in northern Iran

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INTRODUCTION

The Persian Brook Salamander, *Paradactylodon persicus* (Eiselt & Steiner, 1970) is an endemic and poorly known species of northern Iran (Baloutch & Kami 1995; Kami 1999). It was originally described as *Batrachuperus persicus* by Eiselt & Steiner (1970), but has been transferred to the genus *Paradactylodon* based on genetic studies by Zhang et al. (2006). This species has been reported from two localities only: Weyser, southeast of Chalus, in Mazandaran Province (36° 30' 35" N and 51° 26' 38" E) and Delmاده village, southeast of Khalkhal, in Ardabil Province (37° 22' 34" N and 48° 47' 35" E) (Kami 2004; Ebrahimi et al., 2004) (Fig. 1). Here, we report a new record of this species in Hyrcanian forest, in Gilan Province, Iran.

RESULTS

During our field survey in June 2010, a single specimen was collected in Dasht-e-Daman Yeylagi, in Rezvan Shahr city of Gilan Province (37° 27' 53" N and 48° 47' 10" E) at an elevation of 1622 m a. s. l. (Fig. 1). This specimen is a subadult (Fig. 2a–b) and it was identified as *Paradactylodon persicus* based on external morphological characters which mentioned by Baloutch & Kami (1995). Because this is a threatened species in Iran (Papenfuss et al. 2011; Ahmadzadeh & Kami 2009), it was released into the natural habitat after morphological examination. The characteristic features of this specimen are as the following: total length 23 mm; snout-vent length

90 mm; tail length 120 mm; head large, 20 mm in length; vomerine teeth in two arch-shaped rows; snout rounded; fore and hind limbs with four digits; tail flattened laterally, with round-tapered end; dorsal head and body, as well as upper surface of tail brownish with yellow spots and marblings; belly cream without pattern (Fig. 2a–b).

Paradactylodon persicus inhabits the mountainous streams and brooks, with cool, fast-flowing water (Baloutch & Kami 1995; Kami 1999; Ahmadzadeh & Kami 2009). Like the Delmاده habitat in Ardabil Province, the habitat reported here is also located in a non-forestry area (Ahmadzadeh & Kami 2009). The specimen was found under a stone close by a stream on the steep slope of Alborz Mountains, exposed to the Caspian Sea.

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Fig. 1. Map showing the two former valid localities and new reported locality of *Paradactylodon persicus* in Iran.

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Fig. 2a–b. *Paradactylodon persicus* from Dasht-e-Daman Yeylagi in Rezvan Shahr city of Gilan Province.



Fig. 3a–b. The newly recorded habitat of *Paradactylodon persicus* in the Dasht-e-Daman Yeylagi in Rezvan Shahr city of Gilan Province.

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